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SENATE RESOLUTION 111

By Cooper J

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of James B. "Pete" Holt of McMinnville.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of James B. "Pete" Holt, longtime McMinnville Alderman and community activist; and

WHEREAS, Pete Holt was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt was renowned among his fellow citizens as the "Father of Parks and Recreation" in McMinnville, as he had been instrumental in the advancement of the City's recreational facilities during the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt spearheaded and supervised many community recreational projects, including the founding of Riverfront Park, Ramsey Park and Pistole Park and additions to the Civic Center athletic fields, one of which has been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, He was also instrumental in the beginnings of the Greenway Project and Pepper Branch Park; his stalwart efforts in support of the City's parks and recreation mission helped earn McMinnville the Governor's Award for Excellence; and

WHEREAS, In fulfilling his important duties as Chairman of McMinnville's Parks and Recreation Board, Mr. Holt was a hands-on supervisor, ensuring that funding and manpower were available to constantly update and expand the City's recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, A tireless supporter and advocate for the children of his community, Mr. Holt always gave his utmost to the projects in which he was involved; and

WHEREAS, An ever present, benevolent figure at McMinnville's recreational facilities and events, Mr. Holt participated extensively in various youth basketball, softball and baseball programs, coaching several teams over the years; he was also a longtime Boy Scout leader, heading up Troop 37; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt's unremitting dedication to his community earned him the McMinnville Evening Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1999; he had previously been honored with the Exchange of the Year Award in 1989; and

WHEREAS, A longtime member of Exchange, Mr. Holt normally served as the leader of the committee which selected the Book's recipients; however, in 1999, he was conferred the prestigious award in secret, and was then awarded this coveted honor in a surprise ceremony; and

WHEREAS, In addition to chairing the Book of Deeds Committee, Mr. Holt was an active officer in Exchange, holding virtually every office in the club, including meritorious tenures as President in 1974 and 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt served with acumen and alacrity as a member of McMinnville's Aldermanic Board for 21 years and chaired various committees during his outstanding tenure, most notably the Parks and Recreation Committee; he earned the respect of his constituents and colleagues alike for the peerless quality of his work and his devotion to duty as an Alderman and public servant; and

WHEREAS, His meritorious service as Alderman included his first term from 1968-1970 and then a lengthy tenure in office from 1978-1997; and

WHEREAS, McMinnville Mayor , Dr. Norman Rone paid homage to Mr. Holt and his bountiful life by saying: "I admire his integrity and dedication to the youth of our community"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt's friends and colleagues have described this sterling Tennessean as the "epitome of a good person" and a "really straight fellow" who "...always wanted to do the right thing and ... always believed in our community"; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his voluminous contributions to his community, Mr. Holt was the owner of Kathy's McMinnville Flower Shop and had retired from his post as Credit Manager at Warren Farmer's Co-op; he was also a member of the Central Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt is survived by his loving wife, Katie G. Holt; daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Wayne Rigsby; son and daughter-in-law, Darwin and Melanie Holt; grandchildren, Andrea Rigsby, Marcie Griffith, Meagan Griffith and Ryan Rigsby; sister, Betty Joyce Davenport; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Curtis and Peggy Raby; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holt leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of James B. "Pete" Holt, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his exemplary service as a community leader and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Holt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

